

## REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with the above referenced continuation application. The original claims of the parent application are being cancelled and new claims 42 and 43 are being substituted. These newly added claims are directed to a program-verify scheme for multi-state memories. Claims 42 and 43 are respectively exact copies of claims 1 and 2 of U.S. patent number 6,538,923, of Parker issued March 25, 2003. A copy of patent 6,538,923 is included for the Examiner's convenience.

The "Related Applications" paragraph on page one of the present application is being amended to update it and delete reference to earlier applications. The claim for priority of the first three applications of the previous list is hereby being withdrawn, to only recite the parentage back to U.S. application serial no. 08/910,947, filed August 7, 1997, now U.S. patent no. 6,222,762. The effective filing date of the present application shall then be August 7, 1997, that of continuation-in-part application serial no. 08/910,947 that included the subject matter being claimed herein.

A prompt consideration and allowance of claims 42 and 43 are respectfully requested.

**EXPRESS MAIL  
LABEL NO:**

**EV 437668010 US**

Respectfully submitted,



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